GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:423
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
TILTING OF HISTORICAL MINARETS
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Qutab Minar has a tilt of 25 inches to the southwest and is in danger of leaning further in that direction;

(b)if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Taj Mahal Minarets are also tilting dangerously and its base sinking to one side;

(d)if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to restore these monuments?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b) The Survey of India has conducted geodetic survey of Qutb Minar at the behest of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and submitted its report to ASI in last year. The report indicates that the Minar has tilted between 9 to 11 seconds from 1983 to 2005 and annual rate of tilt is only 0.5 to 3 seconds.

(c)& (d) No, Sir. The study conducted by the Geodetic and Research Branch of the Survey of India during March-April 2005 has concluded that Minarets of Taj Mahal are quite stable both in plan and elevation.

(e) Conservation works are being done at these monuments regularly. Every care is taken to ensure that no damage is caused to them.